

founded societies for making his crooked
 places plain, ar
 (to me) his plain places very crooked. These
 societies ha^
 terrorised the ordinary reader into leaving
 Browning alon
 The same thing has been tried with
 Shakespeare, b
 fortunately the experiment in this case has
 proved Ic
 successful. Coroners' inquests by learned
 societies car
 make Shakespeare a dead man.

At the time of my first marriage, when I
 met the
 great men, I had never had the advantage—
 I assume th
 it *is* an advantage!—of a single day's
 schooling in a ri
school. What I have learned outside my
 own profcssi
 I have learned from my environment.
 Perhaps it is tl
 which makes me think environment more
 valuable than
 set education, and a stronger agent in
 forming characl
 even than heredity. I should have written
 the *extern**
 of character, for primal, inner feelings are, I
 suppose, alwa
 inherited.

Still, my want of education may be partly
 responsil
 for the unsatisfactory blankness of my early
 impresskx
 As it takes two to make a good talker, so it
 takes two
 make a good hero—in print, at any rate. I
 was meeti
 distinguished people at every turn, and
 taking no notice
 them. At Freshwater I was still so young
 that I preferen
 playing Indians and Knights of the Round
 Table w
 Tennyson's sons, Hallarn and Lionel, and
 the yot
 Camerons, to sitting indoors noticing what
 the poet did 2
 said. I was mighty proud when I learned
 how to prep
 his daily pipe for him. It was a long
 churchwarden, and

liked the stem to be steeped in a solution of
sal volatile;
something of that kind, so that it did not
stick to his 1:
But he and all the others seemed to me
very old. Th
were my young knights waiting for me ; and
jumping ga
climbing trees, and running paper-chases
are pleasant w.
one is young.